

Wilson High School Modernization Community Presentation #1

October 1, 2009

Q&A Session Summary

The following is a summary of comments and questions raised by community members and stakeholders during a Q&A session after presentation of the project.

1. **Matt Frumin**

WMC, SIT Team Member, parent

Comments:

1. Thanked all for efforts. Looks forward to working together in future.
2. Academic Building and new atrium design fabulous.
3. Overall square foot calculations indicated in presentation do not account for 11,000sf Atrium Crossroads, so program square footage is not met.
4. Main Gym Box is too small. Programmed 1,600 seats are squeezed into gym.
5. Practice basketball courts are too small (less than those at a middle school). End and sidelines too close to walls/obstructions
6. Design should provide visual accessibility to all areas.
7. Stairs unacceptable.

Questions:

1. Does Adaptive reuse make sense?
2. Are buildings being salvaged to save money?
3. Why not demolish all but Academic Building and begin again?

2. **Eric Martel**

WHS Teacher, Teacher's Union Building Rep.

Comments:

1. No mention of teachers and teacher workrooms. Teacher's need work spaces. Confusion over teacher class ownership or floating.
2. Questioned team teaching.
3. AAA is a joke, just includes extra PE classes
4. Optimal class sizes at 21, OK at 25, currently 29. Need more classrooms.
5. 25 students need 750sf min.
6. Music and Art account for disproportionate amount of space when compared to academics
7. Alternative Learning program for 10 students too small - not reality

Questions:

1. Does Adaptive reuse make sense?

3. **Tom Israel**

WHS parent

Comments:

1. Concerned with swing space.

Questions:

1. Where are the portable classrooms going to be located during construction?

4. Chuck Samuels

WMC

Comments:

1. Concerned with people getting to and from class on time and safely.
2. Would have liked to see more of the classroom spaces in the animation.

5. Marlene Berlin

WHS parent, Former PTA member

Comments:

1. Worried about ramps impeding the flow of students.
2. Concerned with moving kids in and out of the school safely.
3. Concerned about overcrowding in the hallways at class changes.

Questions:

1. Will the new parking areas and curb cuts facilitate safe routes to and from the school?
2. Are the existing bottlenecks being taken into consideration?

6. Mary Griffin

WHS parent and alumni

Comments:

1. Would like to see a circulation diagram of wheelchair routes.
2. The corridors appear to be obstacles.

Questions:

1. Why is it necessary to retain the connecting corridors?
2. Could there be a more effective/exciting way of dealing with that space?
3. How long would it take a person in a wheelchair to get from one end of the school to the other?

7. Judy Leach

WHS parent

Comments:

1. Concerned with level changes and distance.

Questions:

1. Why not make the school on a single level?

8. Don Squires

WHS parent

Comments:

1. An animated wheelchair should be shown going through the school.
2. Believes meeting ADA compliance is the "floor" and we should exceed these standards.
3. Need to make sure entrances work in terms of security equipment. There should be enough to allow kids to get through in a reasonable amount of time.
4. Appreciates the amount of space and attention given to the drama department.

Questions:

1. Will the correct amount of security equipment be provided to allow students to safely and efficiently enter and exit the school?

9. Sean Stanwick

neighbor, local architect

Comments:

1. Need to raise the bar in terms of LEED from minimum Silver to Gold.
2. Happy with the relocation of the announcer's booth.
3. Likes the atrium but concerned with heat gain.
4. Concerned with construction activities and schedules and their effects on the neighborhood.
5. Would like the plans to be made available to the public.
6. Would like to see a plan of the portable classroom locations.

10. Verna Clayborne

WHS parent, environmentalist

Comments:

1. Concerned with wheelchair accessibility and time travel between classes.
2. Would like to see a teaching lab for students explaining the sustainable technologies of the building.

Questions:

1. Where would students be sheltered in place during a natural disaster or emergency?
2. Is it safe to have a cafeteria above a parking garage? Will the emissions and air quality be evaluated?

11. Cathy Reilly

WHS parent

Comments:

1. Happy with the process of SIT team meetings. Recommends that the team meets more often.
2. Glad to hear that the DC Ed Spec wouldn't be taken literally because that is what happened at McKinley (where walls were moved just to create slightly larger or smaller spaces at a great cost).

Questions:

1. What are the provisions for storage during the move?
2. Will there be enough space for items to be kept such as book, computers, etc.?
3. Does the EdSpec apply to adaptive reuse?

12. Margo Burkey

WHS parent, LSRT

Comments:

1. Concerned with the sizes of the classrooms and with overcrowding.
2. The teacher workspaces at School Without Walls are not helpful for students seeking individual help.
3. Believes the faculty offices should be places conducive to one-on-one meetings between students and teachers.
4. Concerned with the maintenance of the atrium skylight, columns, and the main space and its impact on the budget.

13. Ellen Whitman

WHS parent

Comments:

1. All traffic between the buildings occurs on the first level.

Questions:

1. Would it be possible to connect the buildings at more than one level?

14. Sarah Whitener

WHS parent, chair of LSRT

Comments:

1. Happy with SIT meetings. Believes in the need to keep the conversation going. Concerned that there had been no meetings from July 2nd – October 1st.
2. There are 77 classes with more than 30 students. Overcrowded classrooms make it harder for students and teachers.
3. People can't use the rose garden and atrium because there aren't enough people to police those areas.

Questions:

1. How many people can be seated in the gym or auditorium at once?
2. Is there a space in the project where the entire school could fit?
3. Would noise in the atrium pose a problem to the surrounding classrooms?
4. Is there enough money in the budget to be able to clean the atrium roof?

15. Ginny Callanem

WMC

Comments:

3. Freestanding locker rooms at the fields pose possible safety issues.

Questions:

1. What are the long-term costs of heating and cooling the atrium?
2. What would be the costs of heating, cooling, and maintaining the locker rooms? Would custodians go out to these spaces?
3. What will the acoustics be like in the atrium? Would you hire a consultant to figure that out?
4. Will the noise affect the classrooms surrounding the courtyard?
5. Will the atrium remain in the design?
6. What would be the heat load in the atrium?

16. Cathy Wiss

WHS parent, ANC, neighbor

Comments:

1. Hard building to negotiate with crutches.
2. Happy with the move of the press box from a visual standpoint.
3. The announcer's voice is heard from blocks away.
4. Concerned about the safety of the students and parents while traveling to and from the school by car, bus, metro, bike, etc.

Questions:

1. Will moving the press box make sound projection a bigger problem?
2. Are the current traffic patterns around the school being taken into consideration?
3. Can the stadium speakers be across the stadium and aimed back at the bleachers and away from the neighborhood?

Main Issues Discussed:

1. Renovation/ Modernization/Adaptive Reuse

- a. Accessibility
 - i. Vertical levels
 - ii. Horizontal distance
- 2. Gym Compromises**
- 3. Security**
 - a. Visual accessibility
- 4. Program**
 - a. Class size
 - b. Number of classrooms
 - c. Academic percentage compared to Arts and Athletics
- 5. Construction**
- 6. Pedestrian/ Vehicular Traffic concerns**
- 7. Maintenance**
- 8. Sustainability**
 - a. LEED

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Comments Organized by Topic

Accessibility/Circulation Concerns

- 1. Matt Frumin**
Design should provide visual accessibility to all areas.
Stairs unacceptable.
- 4. Chuck Samuels**
Concerned with people getting to and from class on time and safely.
- 5. Marlene Berlin**
Worried about ramps impeding the flow of students.
Concerned about overcrowding in the hallways at class changes.
Will the new parking areas and curb cuts facilitate safe routes to and from the school?
Are the existing bottlenecks being taken into consideration?
- 6. Mary Griffin**
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The corridors appear to be obstacles.
How long would it take a person in a wheelchair to get from one end of the school to the other?
- 7. Judy Leach**
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Why not make the school on a single level?
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Will the correct amount of security equipment be provided to allow students to safely and efficiently enter and exit the school?
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